



Salt River

PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

ROUTE 1, BOX 216 / SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85256-9722 / PHONE (602) 941-7277

IN REPLY REFER TO: Administration

April 7, 1987

Mr. Paul La Courreys,
Field Operations Branch
Toxics & Water Management Division
U.S. EPA Region IX
215 Fairmount Street
EPA Mall Stop T-4-A
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. La Courreys:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of the CERCLA report done by Ecology and Environment, file T-4-A, EPA ID# ADZ 980735781 sent to Mr. Frank Mertely, Community Manager of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

As a matter of policy, this Community looks to the Indian Health Service and Federal agencies such as EPA on matters dealing with business activities such as our landfill and not to the State. As such, we consider any reports that deal with this Communities enterprises as confidential and this report should be handled in that matter.

While we generally agree with the report, there are some errors regarding the site that merit comment. First, it should be noted that due to flood problems in 1979 and 1980, major berms have been constructed in subsequent years and they are being further extended to preclude the possibility of erosion in any future floods. Concurrently, the Community is in the process of developing a channel approximately 1200 feet wide to contain the flows during extreme runoffs as was the case in 1979-1980. Further, it should be noted that the Union Rock Company is not the only firm doing work on the channel. We use our own fill and cover materials as Union Rock only mines for their purposes. We have not had any significant erosion since the berms have been constructed.

As a matter of policy we do not knowingly accept any hazardous waste in our fill. The cities by contract and other independent haulers are aware of this policy. We have had some difficulty with attempts by some local hospitals to dispose of their wastes and they have been advised to take them to sites approved for disposition of hospital wastes. This problem is largely resolved and any future shipments of this nature will be rejected. We operate a good fill and intend to continue as such. Normally, we seek Indian Health Service for advice when we need it and we work cooperatively with the cities around us as well as the Maricopa Association of Governments.

*Spoke to Frank Mertely
Salt River Comm.
(602) 941-7279 re:
this site does not qualify
for confidentiality.
He said OK*

*Paul La Courreys
4.13.87*

PA Simon

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We are aware of the low levels of volatile organic chemicals in the vicinity of the present fill, but note that the intensity of TCE has decreased slightly since 1980. From our review, it appears that the higher concentration of TCE is nearer to the old Mesa Landfill that has been closed for some time. We also note that Mr. Kim Schmidt indicated that while some VOC's were present it was not alarming. We recognize, however that we must continue to monitor to see if significant changes occur and to take appropriate measures if they do.

While we agree with most of the recommendations, we do not see a need to install upgradient monitor wells at this time. If our monitoring wells at the landfill show a significant increase in VOC's then this would be appropriate. We have no comment on the PRP Search but we believe that hospitals and the cities are well aware that we will not accept hazardous materials or possibly infectious wastes at our site. The lease with the commercial firm that was recycling oil west of the landfill site has been cancelled. The lessee has been directed to close down the operation and to clean it up. We anticipate this will be done within 120 days.

Based upon this report and the monitoring reports rendered by Mr. Schmidt for MAG as well as our own evaluations we do not see a need for this site to be included on the NPL list at this time.

We appreciate the opportunity to make comments on this report. You can be assured that we will take such measures as we consider appropriate to operate an environmentally clean fill.

Sincerely yours,


Alfretta M. Antone,
Vice President

AMA/sj

cc: Mr. Burnett Gates, Public Works